

REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of this application in view of the present amendments and the following remarks. By this amendment, claims 14, 16 and 42 are rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims, and claims 12, 13, 15, 17-41, 46-51 and 54-72 are canceled. As a result, upon entry of this amendment claims 1-11, 14, 16 and 42-45 are pending in this case, with claims 1, 14, 16 and 42 being independent claims. Because Applicants have previously paid for 10 independent claims and 72 total claims, it is believed that no additional fees are due for the consideration of this paper. However, if additional fees are due, the Commissioner is authorized to charge such fees to deposit account number 13-2855.

As indicated, claims 14, 16 and 42 have been rewritten in independent form. Consequently, Applicants respectfully submit that the claims as amended are supported by the specification as originally filed on November 28, 2000, and that no new matter is added by the amendments. Because claims 1-11 were previously indicated as being allowed, and claims 14, 16 and 42-45 were indicated as being allowable if rewritten in independent form, Applicants respectfully submit that each of the pending claims is in condition for allowance and respectfully solicit same. Should the Examiner have any questions, he is respectfully invited to telephone the undersigned.

November 28, 2006

Respectfully submitted,
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